Proud moment as Ashgabat 2017 celebrates 100 Days To Go

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Travel through the skies inside the Ashgabat Olympic Complex.

With under 100 days to the start of the momentous Ashgabat 2017 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games, the factors that are going to make the competition truly memorable are slowly being unveiled.
“The love for sport is the love for life.”

“Sports is the source of power, vitality and health”
President
Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov
100 Days to Go Celebrations

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Chairman Dayanch Guljeldiyev welcomes the countdown for Ashgabat 2017

100 media to join celebrations for 100 Days To Go

Akhel-teke horses welcome international media

Behind the Scenes

Volunteers star as the countdown continues

New Ceremonies partner promises Ashgabat spectacular

Thousands of Turkmens take a shot at Ashgabat 2017 Opening Ceremony auditions

Turkmenistan dazzles at Astana Expo-2017 international specialised exhibition

Ashgabat Olympic Complex

Travel through the skies inside the Ashgabat Olympic Complex

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100 Days to Go Celebrations

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Thousands of Turkmen men and women filled the Multi-Functional Stadium of Mary to celebrate a momentous occasion, the 100 Day Countdown for the Ashgabat 2017 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games.

While numerous excited flag waving fans took up their seats in the stadium well in advance, 1,000 children dressed in bright coloured clothing transformed the football field into a virtual garden.

The highly anticipated ceremony for the unforgettable milestone event began with the release of thousands of coloured balloons into the air. Soon after, 17 riders astride Turkmenistan’s national pride, the royal Akhal-teke horses, did a loop of the stadium.

The horsemen, who had ridden across four of Turkmenistan’s five provinces before beginning the last leg of their journey to Ashgabat, were welcomed with thunderous applause.

People cheered wholeheartedly as the festivities unfolded, including multiple dance performances as well as poignant programmes that highlighted Turkmenistan’s deep historical roots and demonstration events in different sport disciplines — chess, gymnastics, ju-jitsu, wrestling and the traditional Turkmen sport of tug of war.

Dayanch Gulgeldiyev, Chairman of the 5th AIMAG Executive Committee, said they were determined to deliver a memorable competition.

“100 Days to Go is the most important milestone for the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games to date. I’m really pleased to be able to share this day and the celebrations with the international media visiting Turkmenistan.”

Over 100 journalists from around the world took part in the celebrations as they attended the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 100 Days to Go International Media Forum.

To read more about the media’s unforgettable visit, please go to Page 10.
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Chairman of the 5th AIMAG Executive Committee, said they were determined to deliver a memorable competition.
Turkmenistan celebrated a major milestone on 9 June as it marked the auspicious occasion of 100 Days to Go to Ashgabat 2017 with colourful, musical celebrations around the country.

While the festivities celebrated Turkmenistan’s magnificent heritage, hospitality and modernity, the 5th AIMAG Executive Committee Chairman Dayanch Gulgeldiev took a moment to reflect on the host’s successes to date, and what still needs to be done during the final days of preparation.

“Ashgabat 2017 will be the largest Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games to date.

Turkmenistan will be glad to welcome all the delegations to Ashgabat 2017, as, for us, the main mission of sports is to serve as an envoy of peace, friendship and progress.”

Gulgeldiev believes that two large scale events this year have demonstrated the advanced state of preparation for Ashgabat 2017, including the Inspiring Ashgabat Test Event Series.

“We are expecting over 6,000 athletes and officials, as well as media and fans. We plan to sell over 600,000 tickets for the sports competitions, which is unprecedented in the event’s history.”
“Test competitions are one of the most essential parts of actions to check our operational readiness. The test events passed successfully and have confirmed that the Ashgabat Olympic Complex is ready for Ashgabat 2017, and meets the requirements of international federations.”

One month earlier, the city hosted the Chef de Mission Seminar, another crucial test of facilities, readiness and hospitality.

“The heads of the National Olympic Committees of the participating countries came to Ashgabat to gather information about Games-time operation and services. They were introduced to the Ashgabat Olympic Complex, the conditions created for sportsmen, coaches, referees, and spectators. They really appreciated the well-developed layout of the village, its functionality, and the architectural beauty of the structures.”

The Chairman of the 5th AIMAG Executive Committee is delighted that Ashgabat 2017 is already in the process of enhancing Turkmenistan’s reputation as an open, friendly and inspiring country.

“The Games will showcase Turkmenistan as a country with rich cultural heritage, centuries old traditions, a unique spiritual heritage and talented people to spectators all around the world. It is the primary goal that was put before us by President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov; that, through sports and hospitality, we open Turkmenistan to the whole world.”

Chairman Dayanch Gulgeldiev singled out the importance of volunteers in this endeavor: “The First Stars have become a unifying force of Ashgabat 2017, its heart and soul. After all, the impressions that athletes, fans and other participants of this remarkable event remember forever will depend on our volunteers. Today we have a large corps of volunteers who are capable of actively contributing to one of the largest international sports events - and that is one of the major achievements of the Games.”

“I’ve always wanted to come to Turkmenistan because I’ve heard a lot about this country and Ashgabat, the City of Love, filled with white marble buildings. What I saw here was amazing and I’m very impressed with the Ashgabat Olympic Complex.”

Sandugash Kenzhebayeva
Press Secretary, Turkic World Educational and Scientific Cooperation Organisation, Kazakhstan
100 Days to Go Celebrations

“I’ve attended plenty of major competitions around the world, in both Asia and Europe, and I can say I’ve never seen better sporting facilities anywhere else. What’s even more amazing is that the facilities in Ashgabat were completed well ahead of time. This is a significant achievement because we know how the final works can drag on. Turkmenistan has invested a lot of money and effort in the event and it shows.”

Adem Kula
Owner, Atawatan Turkmenistan magazine, Turkey

100 media to join celebrations for 100 Days To Go

As part of the celebrations to mark the milestone of 100 Days to Go, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, in collaboration with the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography, organised a three day International Media Forum in Ashgabat and Mary.

The Forum, held under the name ‘5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 100 Days to Go International Media Forum’, was attended by more than 100 journalists from around the world, who witnessed first hand Turkmenistan’s advanced state of preparation for Ashgabat 2017, as well as the country’s warm hospitality.

Visiting media commenced the 100 Days to Go celebrations with a tour of the state of the art Ashgabat Olympic Complex, before getting a taste of Turkmenistan’s history at the Turkmen National Carpet Museum and a tour of the capital city’s landmarks.

The media formed part of the extraordinary 100 Days to Go show at the Multi Functional Stadium of Mary, before enjoying a stately Opening Ceremony for the Forum, presided by National Olympic Committee of Turkmenistan Secretary General Azat Myradov.

Following the formal sessions, the media was given a taste of local culture and customs, visiting the historically significant city of Merv, which dates back to ancient times, and the International Akhal-teke Equestrian Sports Complex, the largest horse racing hippodrome in Turkmenistan.
“They’re the world’s most ancient breed of horse and are the predecessors of Arabian horses. They’re highly valued and we’re proud to have some of the best Akhal-teke horses in the world with us.”
Turkmenistan’s national emblem, the stunning Akhal-teke horse, has helped celebrate the countdown to the Ashgabat 2017 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in unforgettable style.

In fact, 17 riders astride Akhal-teke horses are currently carrying the Games torch across the length and breadth of the country.

As part of the 100 Day Countdown celebrations, the visiting international journalists from around the world were welcomed to the International Akhal-teke Equestrian Sports Complex, home to several hundred horses from the most ancient of equine lines.

Far away from the hustle and bustle of Ashgabat, bordered by high mountains on one side, the 200-hectare complex captivated the media with its array of facilities and the stunning Akhal-teke horses housed there.

Illustrating the lasting role that equestrian sports have played throughout Turkmenistan’s history, the media was entertained by spectacular acrobatic performances, with the Akhal-teke showcasing the tremendous intelligence, athleticism and dexterity of their breed.

Deputy Chairman of the state of the art hippodrome, Yusup Annagulyjow was delighted to be part of the milestone event and introduce media to Turkmenistan’s national pride: “We opened the complex six years ago and now we have 600 Akhal-teke horses in our stables.

On the last Sunday of April each year, when Turkmenistan celebrates National Horse Day, people who own at least one Akhal-teke horse are specially invited to the complex. There, they attend a day-long conference and also meet fellow horse owners and enthusiasts.

To read more about the Equestrian Jumping competition, go to page 22.
Behind the Scenes

Volunteers star as the countdown continues

Volunteers are the soul and lifeblood of any major sporting competition. In Ashgabat, they are known as First Stars, and they already have an incredibly important role to play.

The recent Inspiring Ashgabat Test Event Series and the 100 Day Countdown events are major milestones in the final months leading up to the Ashgabat 2017 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, and a fundamental part of each countdown moment is Turkmenistan’s promising young generation, who are heavily involved as volunteers for Ashgabat 2017.

Volunteers are the soul and lifeblood of any major sporting competition. In Ashgabat, they are known as First Stars, and they already have an incredibly important role to play.

The university students, who all display passion, inspiration and friendship, work effortlessly to showcase Turkmenistan’s rich culture, tradition and history, while developing their own skills.

Orazberdi Kakyshov, an English major student at the Turkmen State University, says that being a First Star is an opportunity unlike any other.

“My dream is to become an English teacher, but I also enjoy meeting new people. Volunteering has been a great way to do it. I’ve been a part of several events related to Ashgabat 2017 and I enjoyed each one better than the last. I particularly enjoyed working for the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 100 Days to Go International Media Forum.”

Ayna Esenmyradova, also a student at the Turkmen State University, said she used the volunteering opportunities to meet new people as well as improve her language skills.

“I’m a student of Chinese language and literature. During the Inspiring Ashgabat Test Event Series I got a chance to interact and learn about culture from the many Chinese athletes who were here.”

“It definitely helped me improve my Chinese language skills. It was a very enjoyable experience and I’m looking forward to doing it again in September.”

Leyla Soltanmyradova, who is volunteering for the Games along with her younger sister Jennet, said the experience taught her a lot about managing life and its occasional difficulties.

“Becoming a volunteer for Ashgabat 2017 was an unexpected honour. As a volunteer, each new day brings new learning experiences. It has taught me problem solving skills and will help a lot in life,” she said with a smile.

When the time comes for celebrating Turkmenistan’s biggest ever multi-sport event in history, the First Stars will be at the forefront, ever smiling, ever helpful.
I’ve been a part of several events related to Ashgabat 2017 and I enjoyed each one better than the last. I particularly enjoyed working for the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 100 Days to Go International Media Forum.”

Orazberdi Kakyshov
Ashqabat 2017 First Star
The days are ticking down to the moment the Ashgabat 2017 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games will begin with a wondrous Opening Ceremony at the Ashgabat Olympic Stadium. Leading entertainment production company Balich Worldwide Shows has been announced as the ceremonies partner for the Games. It will be responsible for producing the breathtaking shows that will open and close the two weeks of competition, under the guidance of Turkish company, Polimeks.

The Opening and Closing Ceremonies represent a crucial rite of passage for any Games, a moment that lodges in the minds and souls of participants and spectators alike for ever. The Opening Ceremony will be a statement of intent, the moment Turkmenistan and Ashgabat introduce themselves to the world, and the appointment of such a high-profile partner is a tremendously positive step for the Games.

BWS experience includes the Ceremonies and Flag Handovers for the Olympic Games between 2006 and 2016.

In line with the Games’ philosophy, the shows in Ashgabat will retain a unique Turkmen flavour that will resonate with the state of the art Ashgabat Olympic Stadium, the 45,000 seater venue that will be the pulsating heart of the Games.

Marco Balich, Chairman of Balich Worldwide Shows said: “We are so happy to bring our
“The Games will be an historic moment for Turkmenistan, as Ashgabat 2017 will be the first major multi-sport event to be hosted in Turkmenistan,” said the Chairman of 5th AIMAG Executive Committee, Dayanch Gulgeldiyev.

“Olympic expertise to Ashgabat 2017. Its Olympic Complex is an astonishing site, featuring excellent constructions and infrastructures, high standards facilities and technologies.”

The Opening Ceremony will take place on 17 September, while the Closing Ceremony will bring the Games to an end on 27 September.
Thousands of Turkmens take a shot at Ashgabat 2017 Opening Ceremony auditions

As Turkmenistan enters the final countdown to the Ashgabat 2017 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, thousands of hopeful Turkmens have auditioned aiming for selection as a performer at the highly anticipated Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

With at least 10,000 people directly playing a part in the two Ceremonies, a massive audition and selection procedure was undertaken to find the very best of the best amongst local talent. The auditions began in early May under the auspices of the Turkmenistan Ministry of Culture, and concluded on 31 May.

The auditions saw around 1,000 people perform each day, with several choreographers evaluating their skills.

Student Yazgul Atayeva could not hide her delight at being a part of the audition process.

"I heard about the auditions through the media and immediately knew I had to be a part of it. I’ve always dreamed of being a dancer and getting selected to be part of either of the Ceremonies will go a long way in helping me achieve that dream. I’m very excited."

Sahra Kakanowa, another young dancer, said she was eagerly looking forward to the Opening Ceremony in September.

“'I’m a student and have been a part of a few dance competitions and events in the past. For me, performing in front of thousands of spectators at home would be a big joy. I’m confident I can make it through the strict selection process.”

Seyran Gurbangulyew, a student at the State Institute of Culture, was confident about his chances of being selected.

“'I’ve been a student of dance and music all my life. I play Dutar, Turkmenistan’s national musical instrument, professionally, and have been studying dancing. Though I’ve presented several stage shows, performing at Ashgabat 2017 would be a completely new experience.”
Turkmenistan dazzles at Astana Expo-2017 international specialised exhibition

The month of June also saw President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov invited as a guest of honour to the Astana Expo-2017 in Kazakhstan, where he opened the Turkmenistan pavilion to reveal a stunning and fascinating array of culture, cuisine and industry.

With more than 100 countries participating in the expo, it was the perfect opportunity to display the Ashgabat 2017 5th Asian and Indoor Games at an international level.

President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov and First Deputy of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mami visited the Ashgabat 2017 stand, which showed off the state of the-art facilities that have been constructed to host the Games.

Offsetting the modern development and technology of the Ashgabat Olympic Complex, which consists of 30 purpose-built venues and associated buildings, was a range of cultural selections that highlighted Turkmenistan’s long history of hospitality and openness.

Demonstrating Turkmenistan’s commitment to the Ashgabat 2017 themes of Health, Inspiration and Friendship, pavilion guests were greeted at the entrance by dancers in traditional colourful costumes, before being transported to the far reaches of Turkmenistan by the array of handicrafts, musical instruments, jewellery and cuisine on display, in addition to the scientific and technological displays.

The stand has enjoyed a steady stream of visitors and media from the attending countries since being opened on 10 June.
If one takes a look inside the iconic Ashgabat Olympic Complex, one of the first things that will strike you is the impressive monorail system that snakes its way across the 146 hectare property.

The system, which is 5.1km in length, is supported throughout by mammoth beams of varying heights from six to 13 metres.

Not only does it connect all the infrastructure within the state of the art Ashgabat Olympic Complex, it also provides a novel method for athletes and officials to move effortlessly between the Athletes Village and different Games venues. The monorail train can attain a top speed of 70km per hour, but its highest cruising speed during Games time will be 46km per hour.

The entire Ashgabat Olympic Complex is situated on both sides of the busy Ataturk Street. To create an effortless crossing between the two sides, engineers built two beautiful bridges, touched by Turkmen design elements, for the monorail to traverse.

This is indeed an artistic touch, as passengers inside the train will get an amazing view of the busy streets below them.

The construction of the monorail began in June 2012 and has now been completed. Two companies were involved in building the entire system; Polimeks producing the rails, and Intamin Swiss Company supplying the trains.

Travel through the skies inside the Ashgabat Olympic Complex

With under 100 days to the start of the momentous Ashgabat 2017 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games, the factors that are going to make the competition truly memorable are slowly being unveiled.
In total, 21 sports will feature at the Ashgabat 2017 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, and in this edition, we introduce you to 5 more of them.

**Equestrian Jumping**

In Equestrian sports, men and women compete on a level playing field, with the key factors being technical proficiency and elegance. Skills of both the rider and horse are crucial, and developing the necessary skills in the horses to reach competitive levels requires much time and training. The relationship and mutual respect built between the two is key to a successful partnership.

**Sport**

At the Ashgabat 2017 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, both individual and team competitions are included. Riders work closely with their horses, and competitions demonstrate the combined skills of both rider and horse.

The intent of the competition is to complete a course with obstacles in an allotted time. Time faults are assessed for exceeding the time allowance. Jumping faults are incurred for knockdowns and blatant disobedience, such as refusals (ie: when the horse stops before a fence). Placings are based on the lowest number of points or faults accumulated. A horse and rider who have not accumulated any jumping faults or penalty points are said to have scored a ‘clear round’. Tied entries usually have a jump-off over a raised and shortened course, and the course is timed; if entries are tied for faults accumulated in the jump-off, the fastest time wins.

**Course**

The rider and the horse have to ride a course of show jumping obstacles, including verticals, spreads, and double and triple combinations, usually with many turns and changes of direction. Courses often are colourful and creatively designed.

**History**

Collaborations between humans and horses date back to the ancient civilizations of China, Egypt and Persia. In the ancient Olympic Games, horses were featured in chariot races.

The jumping discipline, as we know it today, developed as a result of competition among fox hunters, following the introduction of the Enclosures Acts that came into force in England in the eighteenth century. Previously, hunters would gallop across open fields in their pursuit of foxes. But when fences were erected following the Acts, a new and much desired trait took the fore - the jumping horse.

Equestrian Jumping was introduced as an Olympic sport at the Paris 1900 Games. Three equestrian disciplines have been on the Olympic programme since 1912: Jumping, Dressage and Eventing. Since 1912, over 2,000 riders from 65 countries have competed approximately 4,000 times in Olympic competitions.

**At Ashgabat 2017**

There will be two medal events at Ashgabat 2017, contested over two days at the Equestrian Centre between 21 and 23 September.
21 and 23 September
Equestrian Centre
2 medal events

18th century
Equestrian Jumping developed

1900 Introduced as an Olympic sport

Over 2,000 riders have competed in Equestrian disciplines at the Olympic Games
Indoor Tennis

Tennis is a racquet sport that is played indoors as well as outdoors and on different surfaces such as clay, grass or hardcourt. The surfaces require different tactics because the ball’s bouncing behaviour varies. Tennis is played by millions of recreational players worldwide and it’s a very popular spectator sport too.

**Sport**

Players hit a ball to each other over a net using racquets, with an aim to play the ball in such a way that the opponent is not able to play a valid return, and therefore win a point. Winning 4 points wins a game, and winning 6 games wins a set.

A match consists of a sequence of sets, and the outcome is determined through a best of three tie-break set system.

There are 3 different types of disciplines in tennis: singles (1 against 1) and doubles (2 against 2) for both men and women, and mixed doubles (each team consisting of 1 male and 1 female player).

A tennis court is a rectangular, flat surface. The court is 23.77m long, and 8.2m wide for singles matches and 11m for doubles matches. A net is stretched across the full width of the court, dividing it into two equal sides.

**History**

Historians believe that the game’s ancient origin lies in 12th century northern France, where a ball was struck with the palm of the hand. It wasn’t until the 16th century that rackets came into use, and the game began to be called tennis, from the French term tenez, which can be translated as hold, receive or take. The world’s oldest tennis tournament, the Wimbledon Championships, was first played in London in 1877. The rules of tennis have changed little since the 1890s.

The four most important tennis tournaments are the so-called Grand Slams, which are played on different surfaces: the Australian and US Open played on hard courts, the French Open played on red clay courts, Wimbledon played on grass courts.

**At Ashgabat 2017**

In September, fans will get to watch five medal events, contested over an 11 day span at the Indoor Tennis Centre from 16–26 September.
16-26 September
Indoor Tennis Centre
5 medal events

12th century first played in France without a racquet

16th century racquets first used

1877 First tennis tournament played, the Wimbledon Championships
Chess

Chess is played by millions of people worldwide. It is a two-player strategy board game played on a checkered gameboard with 64 squares, split into 32 black and 32 white spaces and arranged in an 8×8 grid.

The Game
Each player begins with 16 pieces: 1 king, 1 queen, 2 rooks, 2 knights, 2 bishops, and 8 pawns. Each of the 6 piece types moves differently, with the most powerful being the queen and the least powerful the pawn. The pieces are laid out in the same way for every game and games always start with the person controlling the white pieces moving first.

The objective is to checkmate the opponent’s king by placing it under an inescapable threat of capture. To this end, a player’s pieces are used to attack and capture the opponent’s pieces, while supporting each other.

The word ‘checkmate’ in Chess comes from the Persian phrase “Shah Mat’ which means ‘the King is dead’. In addition to checkmate, the game can be won by voluntary resignation of the opponent, which typically occurs when too much material is lost, or checkmate appears unavoidable. A game can also end in a draw. The longest game of chess that is theoretically possible is 5,949 moves.

History
Chess is believed to have originated in India sometime before the 7th century, being derived from the Indian game chaturanga, which is also the likely ancestor of the Eastern strategy games xiangqi, janggi, and shogi. The first chessboard with alternating light and dark squares as it appears today, was made in Europe in 1090.

The pieces assumed their current powers in Spain in the late 15th century; the rules were finally standardised in the 19th century. The first generally recognised World Chess Champion, Wilhelm Steinitz, claimed his title in 1886.

Since 1948, the World Championship has been regulated by FIDE, the game’s international governing body. FIDE awards titles to skilled players, the highest of which is grandmaster.

At Ashgabat 2017
In September, ten medal events will be contested over a seven day span at the Chess Arena from 21–27 September.
21-27 September

Chess Arena

10 medal events

5,949 moves theoretically makes the longest game possible

1090 First chessboard with alternating light and dark squares made

1886 First World Chess Champion Wilhelm Steinitz crowned
Track Cycling

Track Cycling is a fast-paced competition that involves a variety of team and individual events, requiring athletes to display their speed, power, endurance and tactics around a 43 degree banked track. The closeness of spectators to the track and the speed of the cyclists create an exciting atmosphere inside the velodrome.

Sport

Track Cycling is different from Road Cycling, both in race format and in the equipment used. Whereas road bikes have gears and breaks, track cyclists use fixed-gear bikes without breaks. Track Cycling events fit into two broad categories: sprint races and endurance races, with the Omnium combining the two. Both in sprint races and endurance races, there are individual and team disciplines.

In Track Cycling, sprint races are generally between eight and ten laps, and focus on raw sprinting power and race tactics over a short distance to defeat opponents. There are four major disciplines: Sprint, Team Sprint, Keirin and Time Trial.

Endurance races are held over much longer distances, with up to 120 laps for a full length Madison race in World Championships or Olympic Games.

At Ashgabat 2017, five disciplines will be contested in the Track Cycling competition:

- Team Pursuit
- Omnium
- Sprint
- Team Sprint
- Keirin

History

Track Cycling has been around since at least 1870. When cycling was in its infancy, wooden indoor tracks were laid that resemble those of modern velodromes, consisting of two straights and slightly banked turns.

The Madison event owes its name to the first Madison Square Garden in New York, where Track Cycling and six day racing was very popular by the end of the 19th century.

The first Track Cycling World Championships were held in 1893 in Chicago, and Track Cycling has been an Olympic sport since 1896, with the exception of the 1912 Olympics.

The most noticeable changes in over a century of Track Cycling have concerned the bikes themselves, engineered to be lighter and more aerodynamic to enable ever faster times.

At Ashgabat 2017

A total of ten medal events will be contested at Ashgabat 2017 between 18–23 September.
18-23 September
Velodrome
10 medal events
5 disciplines @ Ashgabat 2017
2-16 Laps per event
1870 First records of Track Cycling
1893 First Track Cycling World Championships held
Billiard Sports

Billiard Sports, also known as cue sports, are a wide variety of games generally played with a cue stick on a cloth-covered billiard table. The cue is used to strike balls and thereby causes them to move around the table.

Sport
Billiard Sports at Ashgabat 2017 includes 13 distinct disciplines:
- Men's Billiard Sports
  - Snooker Singles
  - 6-Red Snooker Singles
  - Snooker Team
  - English Billiards Singles
  - 3-Cushion Carom Singles
  - 9-Ball Pool Singles
  - 9-Ball Pool Scotch Doubles
  - Russian Pyramid Free Style Singles
  - Russian Pyramid Combined Style Singles
  - Russian Pyramid Dynamic Style Singles
- Women's Billiard Sports
  - 6-Red Snooker Singles
  - 9-Ball Pool Singles
  - 10-Ball Pool Singles

Carom
Carom refers to games played on tables without pockets. In the most common variant, 3-Cushion Carom, points are scored by playing the cue ball to make contact with the other two balls on the table, contacting three rail cushions in the process.

Pool
Pool covers numerous pocket billiard games generally played on six pocket tables. In the most common variants, 8-Ball and 9-Ball, the object is to pot object balls until one can legally pocket the winning so called money ball.

Snooker
Snooker includes games played on a billiard table with six pockets. The objective is to score more points than one's opponent by potting object balls in the correct order from lowest value to highest. A series of pots is called a break. The maximum break is 147, 15 times red (1) followed by black (7) for 120, plus the additional colours (27).

Russian Pyramid
Russian Pyramid has different styles, with game play dominated by attempts to pocket the balls using cannon shots off another ball. There are 16 balls, which are larger and heavier than western billiard balls, and the pockets are smaller in relation to the balls.

History
All cue sports are generally regarded to have evolved into indoor games from outdoor stick and ball lawn games. King Louis XI of France (1461–1483) had the first known indoor billiard table. Billiards is often mentioned in the works of William Shakespeare, including the famous line "let's to billiards" in Antony and Cleopatra (1606–07), and it’s had many famous enthusiasts of the sport such as: Mozart, Immanuel Kant, Napoleon, Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain, George Washington, Charles Dickens and Lewis Carroll.

At Ashgabat 2017
From 19–26 September, 13 medal events will be contested over an eight day period at the Billiard Sports Arena.
King Louis XI of France had the first known indoor billiard table.

1896 First appeared at Olympic Games.

2.1m-3m the different lengths of tables used for the variety of Billiards sports.
A few kilometres away from the city centre in the north east side of Ashgabat lies one of the most beautiful equestrian facilities in Central Asia. Ashgabat’s Equestrian Centre is one of the only two Ashgabat 2017 venues located outside the Olympic Complex, and it will host the Equestrian Jumping competition during the Ashgabat 2017 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Games in September.

The Equestrian Centre is expected to welcome some of the finest Asian horses, including the famous local breeds as well as Arabian stallions and mares.

The centre’s vast area includes the Show Jumping Arena, a Hippodrome track, training and warm-up areas, stables and a vet centre.

A tribune that may accommodate 645 people is available for guests who wish to attend the Equestrian Jumping event during the two days of action, on 21 and 23 September.

As far as competition is concerned, two Equestrian Jumping events will be held, the individual and the team jumping competition. Equestrian is one of the very few sports where men and women compete together, therefore two gold medals will be up for grabs for all contestants from Asia and Oceania.

State of the art Equestrian Centre
The golden horse, Akhal-teke

Akhal-teke horses are renowned for their endurance, athleticism and striking metallic sheen, but it is not only for these reasons that the horse is esteemed as the national symbol in its native Turkmenistan.

The Akhal-teke horse is an ancient breed, revered around the world and seen to be the predecessor of the celebrated Arabian horse. The horses are renowned for their endurance, resilience and stamina, having adapted to the historical harshness of the local climatic conditions over centuries. In fact, in 1935, a group of Turkmen riders undertook a 5,000 km journey from Ashgabat to Moscow astride Akhal-teke horses. They completed the journey in 84 days, at one stage going days without water.

In 1988, a group of riders followed their ancestors’ path and finished the journey in only 60 days; not one single rider or horse lost its life during either quest. Legend has it that the breed was created by God, who decided to craft a new creature by combining three animals: the cobra, the eagle and the cheetah. The Akhal-teke horse was the result, with a neck and head resembling a cobra about to strike; eyesight as keen as an eagle; and the ability to run as fast as a cheetah.

Renowned for their beauty, the shiny, metallic coat of the Akhal-teke horse led to the nickname “Golden Horse”, and it is the only horse in the world that has natural golden hair.

Turkmenistan’s national symbol is also recognised for its form and elegance in athletic sports, including jumping, so perhaps we may be lucky enough to see Akhal-teke horses compete in the Equestrian Jumping competition of the Ashgabat 2017 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

And if you are lucky enough to see an Akhal-teke up close, you will notice that its skin is so thin that its veins are visible, and its personality so docile that children as young as five are permitted to handle them alone after a few practice sessions.